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Valvular Heart Disease

TRANSCATHETER AORTIC VALVE IMPLANTATION (TAVI) IN PATIENTS WITH LOW-FLOW, LOW-GRADIENT AORTIC STENOSIS

ACC Oral Contributions

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Background: Transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) is an alternative treatment for high-risk patients with aortic valve disease. Herein, we investigated the efficacy and outcome of TAVI in patients with low-flow, low-gradient aortic stenosis (LG-AS) based on data from the prospective multicentre German Transcatheter Aortic Valve Interventions-Registry.

Methods and Results: Between January 2009 and June 2010, a total of 1302 patients undergoing TAVI were included in the registry. LG-AS was present in 149 (11.4%) patients with a mean age of 80.2 ± 6.3 years (57.0% males; EF 37.8 ± 14.4 ; mean pressure gradient 31.3 ± 13.3). In this subgroup, the EuroScore was significantly higher (26.8 ± 16.6 vs. 20.0 ± 13.3 ; $p < 0.0001$) compared to patients with high-gradient aortic stenosis (HG-AS). In 87.9% of LG-AS-patients, the procedure was performed transfemorally. Procedural success was achieved in 95.3% with a mean postoperative gradient of 5.6 ± 5.3 mmHg. Compared to HG-AS patients, there was a higher rate of urgent TAVI-procedures in the LG-AS subgroup (24.8% vs. 14.5%; $p < 0.01$). The rate of TAVI-associated complications was comparable in both groups (permanent pacemaker: 33.8% vs. 35.4%; $p = 0.77$; cerebrovascular events: 3.4% vs. 3.1%, $p = 0.83$). However, postoperative low output occurred more frequently in patients with LG-AS (LG-AS: 14.9% vs. HG-AS: 5.7%, $p < 0.0001$) and mortality at 30 days and 1 year were significantly higher in this subgroup (LG-AS 12.8% and 36.9% vs. HG-AS 7.4% and 18.1%; $p < 0.001$ and $p < 0.0001$). In both groups, there was a significant postoperative improvement in NYHA functional class and self-assessed quality of life, demonstrating the substantial benefit of TAVI also in patients with LG-AS.

Conclusion: In high-risk patients with LG-AS, TAVI is associated with a significantly higher mortality at 30 days and at 1 year. However, long-term survivors benefit from TAVI with functional improvement and a significantly increased quality-of-life. Therefore, in view of the poor prognosis with medical treatment TAVI should be considered as treatment option in high-risk patients with LG-AS.